Production and Patenting of Darjeeling Tea

4444. SHR DAWA LAMA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) Whether it is fact that there is a huge gap between actual production of Darjeeling Tea in India and that being sold in international market in the name of Darjeeling Tea;

(b) what was the production of Darjeeling Tea during the period 1995-96 to 1999-2000, year-wise;

(c) what was the quantity of tea sold in internatioanal market as 'Darjeeling Tea' during the same period year-wise; and

(d) whether Government will consider to patent Darjeeling Tea?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (c) Tea is exported mainly in blended from either in bulk or in packets. In the process of blending, origin of tea is lost and hence export of tea by origin of production cannot be ascertained . It is estimated that nearly 80% of teas produced in Darjeeling are exported. According to trade information a considerable quantity of tea not produced in the plantation districts of Darjeeling is sole in the international market as Darjeeling Tea.

Financial year figures of district-wise tea production are not maintained. However, production of Darjeeling Tea during the period 1995 to 1999 (calendar year-wise) was as follows:—

year	Production (Mn. Kgs)
1995	11.30
1996	10.61
1997	10.08
1998	10.73
1999	9.29

(d) No Sir. The process of manufacture of Darjeeling Tea is known for ages and the information is in public domain. As such it does not fall within the ambit of new or novel invention which can be provided patent protection.